Government of India, 3 each from Government of Assam and AASU, to examine the porposals submitted by Government of Assajn and AASU under clause Vl of the Assam Accord. The Sub-Committee shall be chaired by a representative of Government of India. The Sub-Committee shall be constituted within 15 days of receiving names from AASU and Goverrnment of Assam and shall give its recommendations to the Tripartite Committee by April 30, 1999.

Attack on Christian Workers and Missionaries

1950. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the attack on Christian workers and missionaries are increasing throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of such attacks on missionaxies held during the past six months and number of Christians molcsited/niped/killed during the same period;

(c) whether Government have assured to a Christian delegation to take an effective step to check such incidents in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government and the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) There is no such increase in the attack on Christian workers and missionaries throughout! the country. However, the Government is aware that some islodated incidents of attack on members of Christian community did take place,

(b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State Subjects as per the Cons titution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of cri mes as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibi lity of the State Governments. * Details of individual cases are not maintained at the .. Central level.

(c) and (d) A delegation under die leadership of Archbishop of Delhi had met Home Minister on 29th September, 1998 who instruc ted the Home Ministry to. Liaise with the concerned State Govern ments with a view to ensure that such incidents are prevented and the guilty persons are puni shed. The Chief Secretaries of the concerned States were advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order authorities to respond immediately to the comp laints of atrocities/harassment of the minorities and nitiate prompt and effective action to identity and punish the guilty persons. The Government is clear that acts of viol ence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly.

Facilities to NRIs/pIO

1951. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to provide a new package of incentives and facilities to NRIs/Persons of India Origin (PIO) and that a committee
has been set up for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details of the constitution of the committee. terms of reference and the period by which the committee is expected to submit its report;

(c) the details regarding present status of the proposal; and

(d) the cetails of major issues of J NRIs pending for consideration, redressed by Government recently?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L, K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Scheme for the issuance of a Person$_s$ of India Origin (PIO) Card for those living abroad and having foreign pass-ports is under consideration. The PIO card would confer on its holder certain special benefits including a visa-free regime and several other facilities in the economic financial and educational fields.

(d) The details of some of the other facilities recently provided by Government to NRIg are as follows:—

1. The investment limit by a single Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/Person of Indian Origin (PIO)/Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) for the purchase of shares/debentures in a company through stock exchanges under the portfolio investment scheme has been raised to 5 per cent.

2. Aggregate limit for all NRI/ PIO/OCB/investments has been increased to 10 per cent.

3. Investment by NRI/PIO/OCB in unlisted companies is also permitted now.

Investment in Health Sector

4. Government has removed the following two conditions app licable to investment in the health sector, namely:—

(i) the centres are equipped as per the norms specified by the Ministry or! Health and Family Welfare: and

(ii) 25 per cent of the facilities available in hoalpitails/centres are provided free of cost to poor and the needy.

Investment under the 100 *per, cent Repatriation Scheme*

5. No prior permission is now required for receiving inward remittances and issue of shares to NRIs/PIOs/OCBs by Indi an companies.

Investment under 24 *percent/40 per cent Scheme*

6. Indian companies seeking NRI/OCB investment under this scheme do not any longer re quire approval from the **RBI.**

Insurgency in Assam

1952. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME -AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the deta'ls of demands made by present Assam State Government to the Central Government regarding tackling the problem of insurgency in Assam; and

(b) the stand of Government on each of these demands?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):
(a) and (b) The main demands made by the Government of Assam and the stand of Central Government thereon are as follows:

(i) Reimbursement if Security Related Expenditure

An amount of Rs. 131.91 crores has been reimbursed to the Government of Assam for period 1-4-1990 to 31-3-1995. The Central Government has also agreed to reimburse expenditure w.e.f. 1-4-1995 as Dei-approved guidelines.

(ii) Additional Central Para-Military Forces

The deployment of Central Forces in States depends uoon over all security scenario and the avail-